

# The Connecticut General Assembly



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **REPRESENTATIVE SIMMONS TESTIFIES IN FAVOR OF BILLS TO SUPPORT WOMEN AND FAMILIES ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

(HARTFORD, CT) – On Monday, March 8, "*International Women's Day*," **Representative Caroline Simmons** (D-Stamford) testified in favor of two bills that support women and families and advance gender equity in Connecticut.

"[HB 5848](#): *An Act Exempting Breastfeeding Supplies from the Sales and Use Taxes*," would make breastfeeding supplies and equipment more affordable and accessible in order to support breastfeeding moms when they return to work. "[HB 6558](#): *An Act Concerning Issues Relating to the Provision of Early Childhood Education and Services in Connecticut*," would make childcare more affordable for mothers and families and expand subsidies for low-income families.

"As we celebrate the achievements of women on International Women's Day, we also must acknowledge there is so much more work to do to advance gender equity," **Rep. Simmons** said. "10.9% of women in CT are living in poverty and women's labor force participation has hit a 33-year low. It is time that we address these inequities and provide resources to help women and families thrive. I am proud to have been given the opportunity to speak out on behalf of women.

HB 5848 was introduced by **Rep. Simmons** and nine of her legislative colleagues and was heard during the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee's March 8th public hearing.

HB 6558 was heard during the Education Committee's March 8th public hearing.

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